

Toc H Journal

Letters and articles are welcomed and are printed as individual points of view, and are not necessarily those of the Movement

Principal Contents — October 1954

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Cover Picture :

The enterprising method adopted by Salcombe Branch to advertise their Summer Fair. The event raised £100 for the Family Purse as well as nearly £16 for local Deaf and Blind. (Photo by H. P. Calkin, Salcombe.)

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People and Houses

ONE does not travel far in Britain nowadays without seeing great building activity, with new housing estates springing-up in many places. Some of the larger towns and cities are already hard put to it to find sufficient space and are planning the development of sites, often many miles away, to house their overflowing populations. But what of the people, themselves, who flock to occupy each newly-completed row of houses?

The opportunity for helping them to acquire a sense of community has already been outlined in the report of the Forward Committee (*Something to Bite On*, para 31). While their hunger for a communal spirit is pin-pointed earlier in the same report (para. 19). Others, also, are greatly concerned with the personal aspect of rehousing schemes and last July the Bishop of Manchester called a conference of clergy working in post-war housing estates in seven northern dioceses. Their recently issued report is full of a sense of urgency, of a feeling that unless something is done *now*, "unparalleled opportunities" will have been lost for ever. It points out that "the population of the new areas is too much of one level and does not represent a cross-section of society". Such roots as do exist are in the main established in the older parts of the towns from which the people have come and the most likely leaders often maintain their earlier allegiances, despite distance.

Welfare workers of wide experience tell of housing estates which have 'gone bad' in but a few years and, while much good work is already being attempted by Branches and individual members, there is an urgent need for far greater efforts. Let us not be persuaded that the task is an easy one for the difficulties are there in abundance; the resentment of people suspicious of 'outsiders' motives, the essential need to find local leaders, the frequent inability to secure a place of meeting are some of the more obvious ones. These and their like are all obstacles to be surmounted if we are to endorse actively the belief that men and women matter much more than the bricks and mortar that shelter them.

A Message round the Map

THOUSANDS of Toc H men and women know Tower Hill already. There remain a handful who have known the place since 1922, when I was sent on Toc H duty here by the unanimous Resolution of the first Central Council to be the Vicar of this ancient Church. Thousands again have watched, or have assisted, the transformation which has taken place, led by Lord Wakefield, Sir Follett Holt, and by our Senior Churchwarden, Captain Sir Ion Hamilton-Benn. Lord Wakefield was our Toc H President. Sir Follett Holt, like Mr. S. F. Houston of Philadelphia, gave to old Talbot House, and thence to Flanders, a son incalculably dear to them; and both these sons knew well the Upper Room, shortly before they passed from war to Peace. Sir Ion Benn remains beyond compare. The death of Private Pettifer leaves him Senior Vice President of Toc H. As the Churchwarden of All Hallows Church, he has as his close colleague in this Office Mr. R. Olaf Hambro, the Bank Chairman, who fought in Flanders in the Guards' Brigade. These two Churchwardens have done everything that man can do to get the Church rebuilt. They have both laboured and made sacrifice for causes which must not be separate. This geographical separation of Francis Street and Tower Hill is a weakness which has produced confusion in men's minds.

Deepest Wish

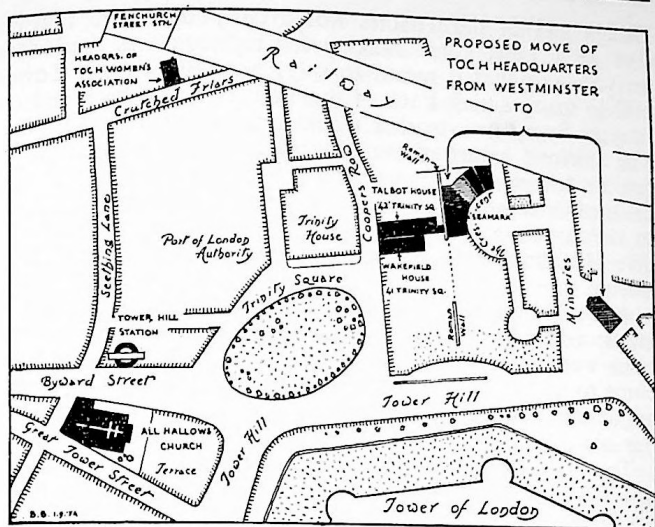
All Hallows, as a venerable ruin being rebuilt on wise convincing lines, aims at an opening in 1956, when the main Church will be at last complete. The Baptistry and tower and spire itself remain to be accomplished by that date, or shortly afterwards. They still require, apart from the War Damages Commission, a total sum of £40,000. Soon after Easter in this present year, the point was put to me by an old friend that I should at the end of 1955 be seventy years of age, if life endures. I was next asked what was my deepest wish. Was it the Church or Tower Hill Improvement? To which of these should friends subscribe a gift to take effect upon December 12, 1955?

I did not then foresee that my reply could be of much importance; but, none the less, I asked to be allowed some time for thought and prayer about the matter. As a result I came to the conclusion that while the full completion of All Hallows is, as an old priest, infinitely dear, there was within my outlook something else which must be finalised ere I depart.

Bridge of Understanding

I therefore put it to my host and friend that I believed it should be my first aim to see Toc H Headquarters soon enabled to execute at last effective transfer from Francis Street, Victoria, to Tower Hill. This object stands out in my working life as utterly supreme in all my thoughts, since it is clear that any gulf between the Guild Church of All Hallows and Toc H might, if continued for a space of years, severely strain the bridge of understanding between old friends. For thirty years the Holy Spirit brought Toc H to All Hallows and All Hallows to Toc H in a free harmony of work and worship. But when the veteran friends have passed to rest, some formidable difference might arise whereby the Church and Movement would be sundered one from the other in the course of years. Thus the Guild Church which has received new life from overseas in all directions, not only in finance, but in its fabric, would stand in peril of a separation from those for whom its prayers ascend to God. Day after day for more than thirty years, in peace and war, quiet determined and hard-working folk have here upheld the spiritual nature of Toc H, its godly character, its aspirations, its pains, its disappointments and its triumphs, and thereby entered into partnership.

Meanwhile in Francis Street our friends and colleagues have come to know the value of the Guild Church. Friendly traditions have not broken down, but been maintained with mutual loyalty. Yet it has been a strain endured by both that plans and programmes have not marched together. Confusions have much hampered operations, despite our natural wish to work in rhythm. The to and fro by Underground or car takes half a day, including interviews; and secretaries on both sides are engaged in weariness to write to one another. Visitors have to make not one appointment, but two or more. The men whom they must see are to be found at one or other of these centres, and correspondence



must be duplicated. All this has been endured for thirty years. What would our own successors most desire? Would they be no less free to come and go, or would they cut the painter finally?

If any such disaster should occur, All Hallows might become too orthodox, closeted in its vestries and confined in outlook to this immediate portion of the City; while Francis Street would cling to Constitutions and revel in sub-committees, increasingly remote from the Guild Church. Thus Faith and Works would come to blame each other, and drift to a divorce, which God forbend.

With these prognostications in my mind as formidable shadows of the future, my verdict was that to transfer Toc H Headquarters to Tower Hill had now become the most supreme desire in my last chapter.

Just at that stage an island building here, looking towards All Hallows and the Tower, at the opening of the Minories, was likely to be vacant in 1956. If it were only possible to purchase the lease which runs for more than fifty years and to extend it, we should thus achieve indeed an act of major strategy. Toc H would be enlarged on Tower Hill to an extent we scarce could contemplate. The traffic of Tower

Bridge and of the Thames would daily be aware that in Toc H a quiet force making for righteousness had here arrived, and that it meant to stay, proceeding from Tower Hill to many duties. Each of these duties would be based on prayer. Every new worker would receive his true blessing. The spiritual nature of the Movement would thus be manifest to friends and critics. Christian foundations could not be thrown down, or disregarded as now unessential. Christ in the common ways and weekday world would deign to give His sanction to the work as unpretentious and indeed sincere.

A hitch occurred, but it was overcome by God's good grace; and, with a unity we scarcely hoped, decisive Resolutions were recorded that we should be agreed the time was come to be "of one accord and in one place". The men who asked the question have accepted our common verdict and our obligation of an intense and lasting gratitude.

Toc H in these two years must take new heart and learn self-discipline, that austere word which is the preface to discipleship. The Movement is with solemn urgency now to repair its nets and mend its ways, in order to be ready to embark in 1956 and to launch out into the deep, obeying His command.

TUBBY.

Harvest of a long life

SEVERAL YEARS before the first World War, with scarcely a warning, engulfed our settled world, I was privileged to be working as private, so to speak 'domestic', secretary to Herbert Samuel. He was then a member of Mr. Asquith's Cabinet, one of a brilliant team which numbered Lord Haldane and Winston Churchill in its ranks. The landslide of the 1906 General Election was a recent memory and the fortunes of the Liberal Party were still at their height; the course of the ship of state, with its precious burden of prestige abroad and social reform at home, seemed set fair for a long voyage.

My job took me each morning from the dirt and confusion of Bermondsey where I lived to the quiet of Mr. Samuel's

immaculate study in Bayswater. In the summer recess of Parliament I travelled with him and his family to his Yorkshire constituency for a delightful free-and-easy spell plus a little work. Thus I had opportunity of seeing my chief on and off duty, whether in the black morning coat which was the uniform of a Cabinet Minister or in the Norfolk jacket and knickerbockers of the Edwardian gentry on holidays; thus did I come close to him both in business and in leisure. I became familiar with his ways with his four children, his friendships and his relations with people of all kinds, high and simple, in and out of politics. He allowed me to share something of his views about religion, his tastes in literature, his judgements upon people and events of the time; we pick-nicked, played and swam together, as well as worked together.

Mine was a humble part but it gave me an uninterrupted view of the man I served and greatly respected. Everything I then found in him added up to that sum which the whole country now admires in the octogenarian 'elder statesman' of today. Most meticulous in dress, in manners and in every detail of business, understanding and generous not only to his family and friends but to those who served him or needed his help, sincerely devoted not merely to his party but to the cause of social reform, incorruptible in his public and personal career, the single word that has always come to mind in thinking of Herbert Samuel is 'integrity'. And so today he is recognised as a worthy spokesman for us all on any great occasion.

These then are the qualities reflected in this book. It is so characteristic, to begin with, that the compiler began at the age of eighteen to jot down the items that compose it and has kept up this systematic jotting habit until he is now over eighty. The selection was first committed to print in 1947, but in 1954 this second edition contains many new items, for the compiler is still at work on his collection. Not the least wise and witty and worth while are the short sayings marked with an S—the thoughts and sayings of Samuel himself. This is a book to pick up at any odd moment and open at any page. Anyone who does so will envy the robust and lively taste of the richly-stored mind which has delighted in putting it together.

BARCLAY BARON.

* *Viscount Samuel's Book of Quotations.* (James Barrie. 15s.)

Multum in Parvo ~or much in little

✻ This year the Birthdays of both Talbot House in Poperinghe and Tubby, December 11 and 12, usually observed by the forging of a World Chain of Light, will be marked by the opportunities for members everywhere to take some part on the Saturday and Sunday in a twenty-four hour VIGIL, "a preparation for more lively action". Prayer will be offered at the due time for each part of Toc H as the world turns. Thought dwelling upon the unity of kinship and purpose may well lead to the renewal of vows and of vigour. For every man it will be a chance to join in re-setting the Toc H COMPASS.

✻ Branch Members' Rolls are being issued in time to help Branch Members and Executives in reviewing their MEMBERSHIP before the end of the year and deciding if they wish to renew it for 1955. A favourable opportunity for confirming this may occur at the time of the World Chain of Light in December.

✻ Two series of TALKS for men will be held at the London Centre at 42 Trinity Square, one for members "On Becoming a Speaker" by John Callf on October 5, 19, November 2, 16, the other for members and friends on Christianity by various speakers on October 14, 28, November 11, 25; all from 6.45 p.m. to 8.15 p.m.

✻ The OXFORD AND THAMES VALLEY AREA FESTIVAL will be held at Abingdon on October 16.

✻ Next year the NATIONAL FESTIVAL of Toc H will be held in London on April 23 and 24.

✻ Members knowing of young men who have gone up to UNIVERSITIES this term and are likely to be interested in Toc H are asked to send particulars of name and college to Alec Churcher at 47 Francis Street, London, S.W.1.

✻ The Notts and Derby Area Secretary, GILBERT FRANCIS, has his office at 20 Gordon Chambers, 11 Houndsgate, Nottingham.

✻ The FINANCIAL YEAR of Toc H ends on October 31.

Padres' Innings

"THIS is a good article to miss. The Editor ought to know that." It would be fun to hear the comments of some when they see the above heading. If they sent them to the Editor he probably wouldn't publish them. His readers are too gentle for such rough language. What a pity! I wonder if it is worth while going on with the article? Well, anyhow, I am a member and readers ought to be interested in what another member thinks, even if he is a padre. Curiously enough my reaction to the title would be to give it a miss. I wonder why it should make that impression on people?

Padres are expected to write about religion. That usually means such things as Bible reading, church going, praying, and so on. These are all linked with some other world than this. It is *this* world that fills the minds of most people. Some want to enjoy it, some to buy as much of it as possible and a minority to make it into a better place. If they want to hear about religion they can go to church or buy religious books. Some do. Toc H members seek a good life not only for themselves but for others. News about such seeking is the stuff we ought to read in the JOURNAL. The Editor should tell us what members and units are doing. We might be able to do the same. There is nothing like a good job to keep interest alive in a Branch.

Link with Life

Oh dear! What a mix-up there seems to be in our minds about Christianity. I suppose we padres are largely to blame for the fact that so many believe that it is only concerned with what are called sacred things. As a matter of simple fact there are no secular matters which are not sacred, and any so called sacred things which are unlinked with ordinary life are of little importance. It is a pity that we ever talk about the 'sacred' things of life or the 'spiritual' side of life. If there be God the whole of life is His concern and He is responsible for it. To attempt to confine Him to a Day or a Book, or to Services of Worship, is folly. If He is only to be

seen or heard or felt there He is of little use to this busy world. He is too small a God for our needs.

If we have ever thought seriously about the life of Jesus we ought to know this. His talk with crowds and also with His own circle of friends was mostly about the ordinary concerns of their lives. Certainly it was about God because no subject thrilled Him more. God was not a prisoner in some distant world. He was active in this world and in the lives of all men. So Jesus spent His time helping people to recognise God in everyday affairs and in assuring them of His unchanging friendliness. *We* can pray "Give us this day our daily bread", and be unconcerned about that two-thirds of the world's population which is hungry. *He* knew that it was not the will of the Father that His children should be hungry either for bread or flowers. So constantly He encouraged people to build a new world from which such hunger would be banished. It is a padre's job to get people excited about this and to help them to recognise God in the midst of the struggle for existence. It is so easy to misread the signs of the times. We are conscious always of the danger of war and the futility of peace conferences. We can see how completely the United Nations is dominated by the Big Five. We find it easy to understand the cockney's conclusion "Wot's the use of anythink? Why, nothink!" Truly we have eyes and see not. Let us take another look.

Our Concerns

At the beginning of the century there were many 'good' people who saw war as a romantic glorious experience. They believed that it fulfilled a good purpose—that it could be a 'holy' crusade. There are few people today who dare to 'glorify' war. The reason with most people is fear of the "Atom" and "H" bombs. Whatever the reason may be, multitudes are recognising for the first time the futility of war. That is all to the good. It may well be that more Christians will make that discovery and have a burning sense of shame that 'fear' has driven them to a recognition which ought to have stemmed from their belief in the Fatherhood of God and its corollary of the Brotherhood of Man.

In this country as a result of a bloodless revolution we have what is called a Welfare State. This has not in itself made the country more Christian. It has, however, done

much to banish hunger from our land and it is an expression of a new sense of responsibility for needy people. This is a distinct gain which will in time result in many more of our countrymen recognising their responsibilities for other parts of the world whose peoples keep company with 'want'.

Throughout the ages the majority of people in the world have been hungry. They have accepted this condition as normal. Now, as a result of improved communications and the 'shrinkage' of the world, many of them see that they have rights and possibilities of which they were unaware. The 'Haves'—that is people of countries like ours—are becoming aware of the sufferings of the 'Have nots'. Many, as a result of a troubled and newly awakened conscience, are waging war on hunger. Many more, as a result of fear of what the dispossessed may do, are also tackling the problem. At present what is being done is painfully inadequate, but the campaign is gathering impetus. This also is gain.

Again, there were many sad and angry people in Britain when India was handed back to the Indians. It had been held for many years and many sincere and idealistic reasons were given for continuing the occupation. Probably most of the people in this country today recognise that the world has benefited because that step was taken. It may well be that India is destined to be a healing influence amongst the nations. Today we are inviting Russia to give up her new conquests in the West. The chances seem slight. She is producing arguments which have a strangely familiar ring whenever she refuses the request. Ought Christians who have seen such incredible miracles to despair and think that other such miracles cannot take place?

If Jesus were visibly amongst us today He would be helping people to see the hand of God in past and contemporary history. His own people, who own Him as Lord, ought to know that His spirit is at work as surely as when He was here amongst men.

One last word! We in Toc H know from experience that when 'two or three of us really meet with our defences down and are in love and charity each with the other, we have life and have it abundantly. Why, in the presence of that liberating experience, do we hesitate to believe "There am I in the midst of them". (How comes it that our eyes are so holden that we do not see?) In sober fact it is only when

we discover Him in life, in its work and pleasure, yes, and at the heart of the struggle for existence, that worship can be for us a thrilling experience.

*Where the many toil and suffer,
There am I among my own;
Where the tired worker sleepeth,
There am I with him alone.*

*Nevermore thou needest me,
I am with thee everywhere;
Raise the stone and thou shalt find me,
Cleave the wood and I am there.*

HERBERT LEGGATE.

Branch Banners — V Purton



The top left-hand panel of the Purton (Wilts.) Banner shows an open door; this being taken from the old saying that if you leave a door open, you must come from Purton. (I even heard this in Central China).

On the right hand is the Pear Tree, from which Purton is supposed to take its name, Perry Ton, Per Ton, Pir Ton, finally, as now, PURTON.

Underneath is the Pebbly Beach on which the tide is supposed to show each morning and evening. There are many explanations

regarding this; most probable is the one that, in the days of the old flint roads, water used to lap over part of the road and leave a tide of leaves where the cattle entered to drink.

BILL COTTRELL.

Rediscovering Toc H

9 — Initiation

AS THOSE who know their Catechism will remember, a Sacrament—Baptism, for example—is defined as an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. Initiation to membership of Toc H, though not of course a Sacrament, can be described in much the same way. But whilst Baptism is compulsory for all who wish to become full members of the Church of England, it will surprise many to be told that, technically speaking, membership of Toc H is conferred by election and that Initiation is optional: or in other words, a man is a member as soon as he has been duly elected and his Form of Application registered at Francis Street, whether he is afterwards initiated or not. I hope this may comfort someone whose initiation may have been accidentally prevented; but nearly all of us look back on this ceremony as the real beginning of our Toc H career. We owe it to those who follow us to make sure that they miss nothing, through any shortcomings on our part, of its deep significance. In this connexion at least, bungling is profanity and carelessness a crime.

Preparation

The background of the ceremony is that the candidate should have been properly prepared, not merely by being required to learn the answers to the questions by heart, but by being instructed in all the various responsibilities which he is undertaking. He will normally have served a period of apprenticeship, during which he will have given practical evidence of his whole-heartedness. He will have signed, after due reflection, a declaration that he has read the Main Resolution and the Four Points of the Compass and that he accepts and will work for the Objects of Toc H. The members of the Branch Executive will have satisfied themselves that he understands these things; for otherwise we have no right to allow men to commit themselves to so exacting a pledge.

So our candidate, duly prepared, seeks to enter the family circle. He is not invited to enter it: on the contrary, he is challenged at the outset. In some Branches he retires from the room and knocks on the door. This is appropriate, but it is not easy to stage-manage and often leads to an undignified muddle, nor it is always quite untinged with the atmosphere of play-acting. Whatever procedure is used, the candidate is outside the circle and seeks to enter the family of his own free will. But he is not alone, for no man walks alone in Toc H. His two chief friends stand with him, as they have done during his apprenticeship and will do in the future. By these "Sponsors" he is named as a friend and brother to be.

Acceptance

Then follows what stands for countless members as their greatest moment in Toc H—there is given to him the lighted Lamp. In his own hands he holds the symbol of Toc H the world over, for it is not only a Branch that he is entering but a family which is world-wide. Once and for always, he is entrusted with the hallowed traditions of our Movement. He is asked the time-honoured questions about them and gives the simple answers which are of the essence of practical Christianity. The assembled members pass him into Toc H as "Friend—all's well". A committed and accepted member now, he returns the Lamp to the Leader of the ceremony and receives with his badge the right hand of fellowship and welcome.

It is a good custom at this point, or when all the candidates have been thus admitted, for the Leader to add the Charge. This had not been introduced when I was initiated. I do not know whether to be glad or sorry that I did not receive it, for it makes a man feel very humble. The Light does not always shine out clearly, the things that are done are not always beautiful. Do men really learn to think better of my Father, God, because they have known me?

Last of all, the new member takes his place in the family circle. It should have been left empty for him; there is a place in Toc H for every man which none but he can fill. So for the first time he takes his full part in the Ceremony of Light, which should always follow and not precede Initiation.

If I may add a purely personal opinion, the Central Guard of the Lamp might well be asked to give us leave to make two small changes. "Whom have you there?" could suitably replace the hackneyed sentry's challenge. For "... Do you pass him?" and the equally hackneyed reply, we might substitute "... Do you accept him into Toc H?"—"We accept him gladly". The old wording is a war-time legacy which has long outlived its usefulness.

MAYNE ELSON.

A SPONSOR

is one who

Shares confidences with
Plans instruction of
Opens way for Pilot with
Notifies reactions of

THE

PROBATIONER



Stands surety at Initiation of
Observes development of
Remains a firm friend of
Strengthens the purpose of

THE

NEW

MEMBER

UNA/UNICEF Campaign

THE United Nations Children's Fund is the world's largest international effort to improve the health and welfare of children and of the mothers who bear them. In its seven years of work it has now helped more than 70 million children from nearly 80 countries, and each year it reaches some 20 million new children. The United Nations believe that children healthy enough to learn and do a good day's work when they grow up are the best foundation for a peaceful world, and therefore UNICEF aims to build per-

manent child welfare services. The need is great. It has been estimated that more than 500 million children in the poor countries of the world are desperately in need of help, and the Fund relies on voluntary contributions from Governments and individuals throughout the world. With the approval of the Foreign Office the United Nations Association has undertaken to organise in this country in September and October of this year a national collection on behalf of the United Nations Children's Fund.

In 1948 the Lord Mayor of London issued a Mansion House Appeal and civic leaders throughout the country responded most generously to the appeal which was then principally for the children in the war devastated countries of Europe. The emphasis this year will be on the under-developed areas of Asia, Latin America and Africa, including many British Colonial territories. The appeal will be a joint one; 80 per cent. of the net proceeds going to the Children's Fund, and 20 per cent. to UNA.

The United Nations Association has already been promised the support of very many national voluntary organisations who are inviting the co-operation of their local branches in cities and towns throughout the country. The principal responsibility for the organisation of the appeal will undoubtedly fall on the local Branches of the United Nations Association which exist in some 600 cities, towns and villages. An approach is, however, being made to civic leaders in places where no Branches of UNA exist inviting them to take the initiative in establishing appeal committees with the support of voluntary bodies and interested individuals.

The United Nations Association feels confident that the British people will respond generously to this appeal for the needy children of the world who are unable to help themselves. A shilling gift to UNICEF buys enough penicillin to cure one child of yaws. 5s. buys enough vaccine to protect twenty-five children against diphtheria, and 10s. buys enough DDT to safeguard twenty people for one year against malaria. Help given to the children today may ensure peace for the world tomorrow.

Further details can be obtained from The Secretary, United Nations Association, 25 Charles Street, London, W.1.

The World Chain of Light

OUR MOVEMENT needs the personal as well as the corporate prayers of its members. It needs the prayers continually. The result of this all-important activity is two-fold. It strengthens the individual who prays. It also enriches and sustains the purpose of the Movement.

Because of this we hope that this year's World Chain of Light—from 9 p.m. Saturday, December 11, until 9 p.m. on Sunday, December 12—will increase the backing of prayer for Toc H and also bring to all members a renewed and deeper sense of solidarity and strength than ever before.

To that end we are suggesting that, whenever possible, every man and woman in Toc H shall take some part in this coming twenty-four hour Vigil. If a Branch is strong enough to carry through a complete night and day of prayer and thought with its own members taking their turn, well and good. It is likely that, where geographically possible, a number of Branches, irrespective of their size, may wish to join in with each other to participate in this act.

Some Branches and groups may arrange to use part of a church or chapel for the whole twenty-four hours, joining in the normal Sunday services. One can envisage the chain of prayer developing in tiny upper meeting-rooms in remote villages as well as in chapels in some of our older cathedrals. The governing principle in the choice of the centre should be its accessibility to the membership, in order that the strongest representation can be achieved from as many members of the Family as possible.

Successive Teams

It is quite obvious, of course, that very few members can be expected to see the whole period through in its entirety. Nor is this desirable. What is proposed is that successive teams of two, three or more members plan to maintain the Vigil at one particular time or at various times during the period. From the start at 9 p.m. the Vigil can be kept by as many members as are willing (at any period never less than two) holding the fort for periods of one hour at a time or

varying from thirty minutes to two hours through the night and day. People differ in their reaction to this form of spiritual discipline, but all members should feel their responsibility for some part of it.

Let it be understood that no one need feel nervous about taking part on the grounds that they are not used to such exercises or because they may not feel competent. Anyone who has taken part in family prayers should be prepared to share fully in the work. Even the shyest can join in, silently. It is their presence and the will to share in this world-wide act of prayer which is essential.

Preparation

Branches will need to devote time, well in advance, to the discussion and preparation of the adventure—for adventure it is. Members should commit themselves well ahead to the share they are prepared to take in this responsible and important task.

There will be made available some suggestions of themes for prayer and thought as the hours progress. These are not to be regarded in any way as essential or as a directive, but it may be helpful to those on duty to know at what times in the twenty-four hours the membership is concentrating on one particular theme. It will be suggested that, during each period of the Vigil suitable passages from the New Testament be read and that other selected books be used; then short periods of silent thought. There should be times for silent prayer as well as for said prayers, which can be both *extempore* and written or derived. "The Vigil is not time for dreaming; it is a preparation for more lively action."

NORMAN MOTLEY.

★

★

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"A POCKETFUL OF PRAYERS"

This little book has been reprinted three times since it was first published in 1931. It is at present out-of-print and, while the issue of a revised edition is being considered, comments and suggestions would be most welcome. Please send them to: Literature Committee Secretary, Toc H, 47 Francis Street, London, S.W.1.

Passed Three Score and Ten

*Over Seventy** is a report of an investigation into the social and economic circumstances of one hundred people, over seventy years of age, covering a period of twelve months in Hammersmith. This report confirms a lot of the evidence which has been obtained by similar methods in Wolverhampton, Sheffield, Southampton, Liverpool and other places.

From the pages can be built up a complete picture of the lives of these people. Of the one hundred people, only thirteen are members of Old People's Clubs. Fifty-two of them did not have a visitor throughout the period of investigation and twenty-six had either never had a holiday or hadn't had one for the last ten years.

We also learnt that their main recreation is reading, but that there is need for large type printed matter owing to their failing sight. They also spend many hours sitting in parks, but here again, their pleasure is limited because of the need for covered-in seats.

The pensioners' budgets are similarly investigated, and confirm once again the need for increased pensions, and the need for remunerative employment for those who are anxious to continue working after reaching normal retirement age. From this remarkable report one is left with the impression that our Social Service machinery is only touching the fringe of the problem, and that there is still a vast field for voluntary action.

A good report, worth reading and discussing by Branches.
C. J. NORMAN.

* *Over Seventy*. (The National Council of Social Service, 26, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1. 5s. 0d.).

Footnote:

A public meeting was held in the Town Hall, Ilford, on September 14, at which a local committee, representing all interested organisations, was formed to enquire into the possibilities of setting-up workrooms for elderly people. The Mayor of Ilford was in the chair and speakers included Mr. J. Moss, C.B.E., Chairman, N.O.P.W.C., and Charles Norman.

A Day at Farnham

For four years Toc H has been in occupation of Farnham Castle during the month of August, and from the beginning a daily Log has been kept. This is the one for Monday, August 9, 1954.

THE DAY BEGAN, as usual, at midnight with a meeting of the female quartet which is wont to meet in the room labelled 'Betty Ricardo'. It followed immediately upon the discussion held in the Library. The quartet's activities began, it is believed, with the search in the New Testament to see if there really were any references to wart hogs. They have not divulged the results of their investigations. They continued with a discussion of euthanasia which, however, brought nothing but insomnia within and, it is feared, without the precincts of 'Betty Ricardo'. The next three hours or so are a blank, for your scribe fell asleep to the sound of the patter of fairy feet on the creaky landings and of rain drops on the tiles.

Floor Polishing

The morning was wet and cold, so wet and so cold that Padre John Durham felt obliged, as a gesture of defiance, to don his tropical garb which he and we endured until lunch time. There were further activities of the Betty Ricardo Club this morning which went some way to redeem their conduct in the early hours. Aided by the lighter of the two Marjories they polished the floor of the Chapel. It is well known that women cleaners work better under male supervision and your scribe therefore joined the party to direct operations and to drive the electric polisher; a wayward instrument that displays a constant anxiety to move to the left. It is believed that Win Manser is negatively charged, for whenever she approached to within six feet of the electric wall plug, it fell out. On being reconnected the machine would invariably shoot off on its own at great speed, and the Chapel was enlivened, though I hope not desecrated, by several pursuits by yours truly, which I am glad to say ended successfully for him on each occasion.

While this laudable employment was proceeding, Reg

Smith (our Warden) could be spied paddling about in six inches of water on the flat leaden roof top outside the Chapel and dangling a length of wire bent at the bottom. It is rumoured that the Padre had dropped his dentures from above while seeking inspiration for an article that he was writing, and that Reg was fishing for them. Or he may have been merely encouraging and assisting gravity, for he left when there was no more water to play in.

And so to lunch after quite an adventurous morning. The afternoon broke (or is it only dawns that break?) fine and warm, which gave the signal for the Padre to discard his tropicals for something heavier. But what we all did I shall never know, for reasons which will occur to those who were similarly engaged.

New Game

At dinner we were introduced by Reg to a new game with vegetable tureens. As he explained, all diners should, after taking a helping, move the dish to the right if they are sitting in an anti-clockwise direction, or to the left if they are sitting in a clockwise direction. Those who could not see the clock were to move the tureens up or down, but, at the same time, along, according to whether they were left-handed or right-handed; all dishes coming up from left to right or down from right to left or across if all other routes were blocked. Unfortunately, only the more intelligent (they will know who they are) seemed to understand these perfectly simple instructions, with the result that tureens shot in all directions though mercifully not on to the floor. However, Reg's main object, namely that everyone should have a large number of small helpings from various tureens was satisfactorily achieved. It is rumoured that he is working out a new game where the diners are blindfolded and the tureens are moved under the table.

Change of Scene

The scene now moves to the Ladies' Gallery where we all congregated, including the gentlemen. The Bechstein was opened, and Bill Harris showed a degree of mastery over it which was both delightful and astonishing for one so young. Nor did he limit his entertainment to those whose interest lay mainly in the music. His facial contortions were pheno-



The Library of Farnham Castle

menal and were unfettered by his spectacles which lay securely on the top of his head. The more impressive musical phrases were immediately preceded by the shooting out of his tongue which then wandered disconsolately around his mouth until the music moved into calmer waters, when it gradually disappeared from view and his face assumed a beatific expression, beatific even for Farnham Castle. Yet again his expression would suddenly change into one of exquisite torture should he strike a wrong note or fail to strike at all. But, by George, he was good! Then came Lady Charming, Constance Lucena, who sang with such natural grace and dainty agility that we all agreed that a concert should be arranged for the first part of the Guest-night at which we were going to welcome a speaker and guests from Le Court, the Home founded by Group Captain Cheshire, V.C. Yours truly also sang and earned a 'Wednesday Night' (the Guest-night) from the Padre. (This ejaculation came from the Padre at the conclusion of various items in the concert: he has never been known to be so brief!) We wound up with some impersonations by Laurie Lucena, who was also 'Wednesday nighted' with some fervour. Prayers followed immediately after: a fitting and satisfying conclusion to what I believe was an enjoyable evening.

Now what can I say about the last event of the day—the discussion in the Library? Most of the time was spent in talking of the pros and cons of euthanasia and of its application in the case of those who are distressingly abnormal from birth. The general opinion was against euthanasia. Maybe there were some not in favour of a discussion of such unhappy subjects, but surely we are right to face these distressing problems in our Library talks and not to sheer away to some more attractive subject. Archie Smith provided the last item for discussion. He drew our attention to the difficulties of the coloured students in this country. We had a useful talk about them and about the coloured peoples in general in Britain. We debated whether it would be a good thing to reserve one or two places at Farnham for nominated coloured students, but on the whole we thought not. They would always be welcome if they came naturally as members or friends of Toc H.

At a little before midnight we adjourned for bed; at least, all but the four little maids mentioned at the beginning of this epistle, who continued to discuss as is their custom in their usual place.

And so the day ended as it began, with the Betty Ricardo Club in full session.

DUDLEY HERRING.

Admission to Toc H

The writer of this article bears a name well known to members, and has recently experienced 'active' service as A.D.C. to Tubby.

“**I**T has the obvious disadvantage of merely counting Ivotes instead of weighing them”. Such was Dean Inge’s criticism of democracy, and there is a danger that the attitude of Toc H to its membership may in future be similarly criticised. Toc H must try to swallow the rather indigestible truth that numbers don’t really matter. What does matter is quality. A man must be imbued with, or be ready to assimilate, the Toc H spirit that almost indefinable, yet recognisable attitude to life that marks the man dedicated to the ideals of Toc H.

Toc H should, in my opinion, consist only of the spiritually outstanding of each generation, if it is to wield any considerable influence. It should be Christ's Praetorian Guard. Even as King Frederick-William I of Prussia searched all Europe for men of outstanding height with "whom to play soldiers on the barrack square", so also should Toc H search throughout the world for men of outstanding spiritual stature who can lead their fellows nearer to Christ's way of life. For Toc H must lead. It is not an all-embracing movement. It has no room for the interested hanger-on. It must be a group of men dedicated to, and wrapped up in this task. Only if Toc H is thus exclusive can it influence and lead others.

Toc H is not for men who wish to perform social service, whilst ignoring the only valid reason for performing it, and the only inspiration which can provide the strength to carry it through. Toc H is not a machine churning out good works like nuts and bolts. It is, or should be, an instrument through which God carries out His Will on earth.

Toc H, then, is first and last a Christian society, a body of men trying to devote themselves, regardless of the cost, to the service of Christ, and finding in this service joy and fellowship such as can be found nowhere else. They must "strive to listen now and always for the voice of God, to know His will, revealed in Christ, and to do it fearlessly".

Point of View

Many will by now have exclaimed with indignation, "One of the ideals of Toc H is to change men. You must not, therefore, keep them at arms' length. Let all who wish to join do so".

This is a widely held point of view, and there is much truth in it. The fallacy lies in regarding it as essential to accept men as members of Toc H in order to change them. Welcome them, befriend them, but only accept them as members when they have shown themselves able and willing to support the ideals of Toc H.

It is in order to test the ability and willingness of would-be members that the system of probation was introduced. It was felt that this was the only means by which a man's fitness to join Toc H could be ascertained. Of what use are interviews, when no one is ever himself? Only after several

months' work with a Branch does a man appear in his true colours. Only then can one discover if he is likely to 'bring forth fruit an hundredfold'. The system of probation is, I am certain, vital to the influence of Toc H in the world.

It is no new system. In fact it copies the practice of the early Church, whose period of probation was as long as three years, during which the candidate learnt as much as possible about Christianity, and the Christians learnt as much as possible about the candidate.

This probationary system is, I maintain, the only way in which we can safeguard the quality of the membership. And it is quality, not quantity, which will determine the influence, nay the very existence, of Toc H. Let me close by quoting a phrase used by the present Administrator in the JOURNAL of November, 1945. "The heroic impulse which carries men through war is still to be found in them in times of peace. Usually what is missing is the same degree of manly challenge. Above all Toc H must be a full-blooded thing, and if we of the membership place our full concentration on the quality, then maybe the Lord will look after the quantity."

KENNETH PRIDEAUX-BRUNE.

A TOC H FILM

In recent years, a steady stream of enquiries has revealed the need for a film concerned with Toc H. Many other Societies have long made use of this medium to introduce their aims and purposes to a wide audience but, so far, Toc H has been unable to do so.

The Movement's story would readily lend itself to such presentation, but the cost of making a 'professional' film, running for twenty-five to thirty minutes and complete with its all-important commentary, would be roughly £1,000. Our present financial position makes it impossible to proceed with such a project, unless some generous friend would be willing to foot the bill.

An alternative suggestion has been put forward to produce a composite film made from amateur efforts. In support of this there are instances where teams of amateurs have skilfully produced films of considerable merit. The Literature and Publicity Committee would warmly welcome suggestions and comments from interested members.

F.G.C.

The Elder Brethren

APTED.—On July 8, WILLIAM MEADOWCROFT APTED, aged 71, a member of South Molton Branch. Elected 13.1.'48.

BALL.—On August 21, WILLIS B. BALL, aged 69, a member of Grenoside Branch. Elected 10.12.'51.

BOON.—On June 11, the Rev. JOHN BOON, B.A., a member of Whitstable Branch. Elected 1.12.'27.

GREGSON.—On August 8, THOMAS GEORGE GREGSON, ('Kingy') aged 60, a founder member of Preston Branch. Elected 28.3.'27.

HOLMES.—On August 24, ALBERT DIXON ZEALE HOLMES ('Alf'), aged 67, a founder member of Folkestone Branch. Elected 1.5.'25.

JONES.—On August 31, WILLIAM EDWARD JONES, aged 78, a member of Hope & Caergwrle Branch. Elected 20.6.'53.

MONEY.—On August 20, the Rev. HUMPHREY CHURCHILL MONEY, aged 70, a foundation member and the first Chaplain of L.W.H.

PEARSON.—On September 4, ALBERT WILLIAM PEARSON, aged 44, a founder member of Middlewood Branch. Elected 6.5.'47.

REED.—On August 11, EMMANUEL REED ('Manny'), aged 71, a founder member of Murlon Branch. Elected 25.9.'51.

RHIND.—On August 4, WALTER RHIND, aged 69, a member of Aberdeen Branch. Elected 20.12.'33.

STAMP.—On August 9, HORACE ROWLAND STAMP, aged 59, a member of Crewkerne Branch. Elected January 1950.

VANDERSTEEN.—Very suddenly on September 5, ALBERT E. C. VANDERSTEEN, aged 58, a Central Councillor and member of Ashford Branch. Elected 21.12.'31.

VIVIAN.—On September 11, CHARLES J. SPENCER VIVIAN, aged 66, a member of Chittlehampton Branch. Elected 3.6.'39.

WEISER.—On August 25, ALFRED WEISER, a member of Manchester Central Branch. Elected 18.3.'34.

WHITEHOUSE.—On August 11, following an operation, GILBERT WHITEHOUSE, aged 40, a member of Okehampton Branch. Elected 23.4.'54.

WRIGHT.—On July 25, JOSEPH WRIGHT ('Pop'), aged 74, a member of Dukinfield Branch. Elected 18.1.'33.

Lilian Pitts

We deeply regret to announce the death, after a short illness, on September 6 of Lilian Pitts, Housekeeper of Toc H, Mark II.

Far Cry Overseas Notes and News

TO HELP THE PRISONER.

MR. GIBSON YOUNG, who has contributed the following notes this month, has for years been active in welfare work in New Zealand. Until recently he was the Secretary of the Discharged Prisoners Aid Society, and in that capacity was brought closely into touch with Toc H, particularly in Wellington.

YEOMAN SERVICE is being given by New Zealand Toc H in connection with prisons. In both Auckland and Wellington, where major prisons are established, teams have been visiting them fortnightly to meet prisoners during games evenings when they had the opportunity of talking to them and of gaining their confidence. They were doing errands for those requiring materials for hobbies and taking their products to sell on prisoners' behalf.

Two years ago, a move was started to revive and re-organise the existing Wellington DPA Society then suffering from lack of public support. In this Toc H members played their part, amongst them being Jack Davies, Bruce Laws and C. F. Cawsey. A new constitution with a wider basis of membership and a greater scope of service was formed. The work now covers aid to prisoners from the time of commitment to discharge, when help is given in finding jobs, ensuring accommodation and tiding them over the transitional period with material assistance by way of money, clothes, tools and other necessities; and thence through after-care until full rehabilitation has been achieved. The name of the society is The Prisoners' Aid and Rehabilitation Society of the Wellington Province and its present president is Jack Davies. There are now over 100 individual members as well as a number of important organisational members.

Unofficial visitors on the nomination of the Society have been appointed by the Justice Department and are allowed to meet the prisoners in private, and this has replaced the Toc H team. Several of its members, however, are among the unofficial visiting team.

G.Y.

NUMBERED DAYS IN EGYPT.

Now that British troops are beginning to withdraw from Egypt, according to the agreed plan, we must expect to hear in the near future that the Services club at Fanara has also received its marching orders.

For several years small Toc H Services Circles in the Canal Zone have been nurtured by Frank Coleman Cross, and a great many young Servicemen, now scattered, have reason to be grateful for his friendship. Though one chapter is about to end, it may be that another will begin elsewhere in the Middle East. Where, no one can yet say, but clearly the need for personal service to men in the Forces will continue.

BACKSTAGE IN ADELAIDE.

Next year, between April 23 and May 1, members from the other States in Australia will foregather in South Australia for their Festival. It will be held at the standing camp, owned by Toc H, at Victor Harbour. Of course it is unlikely that a great many of the members of Western Australia or Queensland will be able to get there: for that matter, we should hardly expect many from Kent, London or East Anglia to attend a festival in Warsaw. But nevertheless, about 100 visitors from other States are expected for the week, and the total numbers attending and the nature of the event requires some hard work and skilled planning. Who carries this sort of burden in countries where full-time staff are so thin on the ground? Well, here are the names of the Festival Committee, culled from *The Link*. We may not know them in person, but the short account of each is revealing—not only because it reflects the way in which the Festival is being planned, but, much more significantly, the sort of men who lead Toc H in South Australia:

DICK BURGESS, Chairman of the 1955 Festival Committee, is an Accountant by profession, age thirty-five years. He was elected to Toc H in 1947 and is Hon. Area Commissioner. Dick has also been Chairman of the Executive and Area Treasurer.

PETER PRATT, Festival Secretary, is a member of the Area Staff, age twenty years. Peter was elected in 1950 and prior to coming to South Australia served on a District Team in Victoria.

JACK UREN, in charge of Conference Programme, is a Company Director in the Hardware Business; a member of Payneham Branch, he was elected in 1935; age forty-five years. He has also served on the Area Executive and is past Assistant Area Commissioner.

ALEC TOMS, in charge of Conference Site and Billeting, was elected in 1937; age thirty-three years, and is a member of Mitcham. Alec has been on the Area Executive for a number of years and at present is Chairman. He is also Chairman of the Area Camp Committee and has done much sterling work for the Camp and Toc H in general.

JACK THOMPSON, in charge of Transport, is a timetables clerk in the railways, age thirty-eight years. Jack is a member of Payneham Branch, member of the Area Executive and was transferred to South Australia from Buenos Aires.

JOHN WALTON, in charge of Publicity, is an Electrical Engineer, age thirty years. A member of Adelaide Branch, he was elected in 1942; at present a member of the Executive and has served on the Area Camp Committee.

MAX KAHL, in charge of Finance, is a member of Payneham Branch, elected in 1951, age thirty-nine years. At present Max is Area Treasurer, employed by the Taxation Department.

DUDLEY MATHEWS, in charge of Entertainment, needs no introduction. Elected in 1927, Dudley is a past Hon. Australian Commissioner, and Hon. Area Commissioner. He is well known for his exceptional organizing ability and was awarded the O.B.E. for wartime services.

PERCE PASSMORE, in charge of Reception, is an Editor in a printing establishment. Elected in 1932, age forty-seven years, Perce is a member of Adelaide Branch, Secretary to the Executive and a past Hon. Area Secretary. He is known for his quiet and efficient service in forwarding the work of Toc H in South Australia.

Mrs. IVY YOUNG, in charge of Catering, is the Area Secretary of the Women's Association and is well known throughout the South Australia Area.

PETER SEYMOUR-PRICE has the title of Co-ordinator. Peter, who is Area Secretary, toured with Tubby as A.D.C. He has had wide experience in Festivals both in Australia and England and does much behind the scenes.

It may be that throughout Toc H we tend to take our voluntary leaders too much for granted, when in fact the willing acceptance of responsibility by members in all parts of the world is something really to be thankful for.

GEOFF MARTIN.

★ ★ ★

WORK AND LEISURE.

"Leisure is often a man's chance to do the work he cares about" says the Editorial in the Autumn number of *New Forum*, while Brian Lynes also writes a penetrating article on "Industry in Transition". Other contributors include Dr. Martin Johnson, 'Doc' Barton, John Durham and Peter Mitchell. To make certain of securing this 'live' Quarterly send a Postal Order for 4s. 6d., for a full year's subscription to Toc H Publications Dept., 47, Francis St., London, S.W.1.

Down to Kew

The writer has been for many years quite helpless, except for a very active brain and one finger which he used to type this article.

TOC H AND "THE NOT FORGOTTEN ASSOCIATION" on May 29, combined in organising another of several outings arranged throughout the year for patients of the British Home for Incurables. This time the objective was the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

Joviality, as usual on such occasions, prevailed while patients in wheelchairs were secured in a commodious, seatless coach, marked "Ambulance", together with a most efficient and kindly driver. Without these precautions, wheelchairs, travelling in such a conveyance, are liable to become more mobile than their occupants!

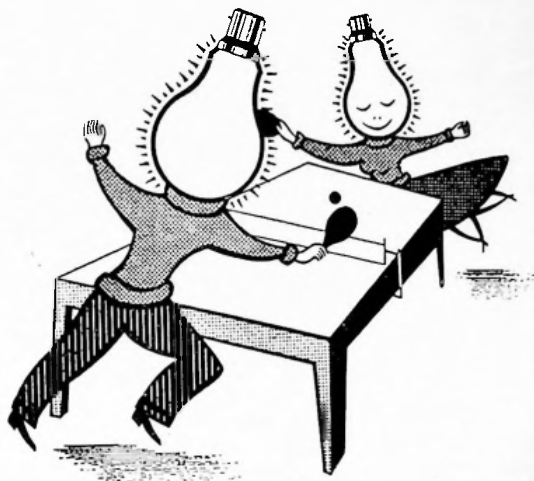
Arriving at the world famous Gardens, the party, wheeled by voluntary attendants, ventured forth: though soon forced to shelter for a few moments under a friendly, magnificent Turkey Oak and a scarcely less splendid plane tree by the pond.

Rain quickly relenting, the party made their way between fine and varied trees, masses of rhododendrons, azaleas, lilac, wallflowers, tulips, and the vastly representative collection of *flora*. After tea at the restaurant came further exploration, peeps into conservatories and admiration of many natural and artistic exhibits, such as Sir Hamo Thornycroft's fine bronze, "The Sower". Enlivened by the dampness, facilitating the catching of worms, the large bird population of Kew Gardens gave a vocal performance truly exquisite. A particularly charming sight was a brood of ducklings, scarcely yet able to waddle, though seemingly almost all feet! While encouraging them, by example, to snap up the pieces of food thrown to them, the mother was careful to keep her precious brood just out of reach.

Though the weather could have been a trifle kinder, the patients fully appreciated this opportunity of following the advice of the poet, Mr. Alfred Noyes, to "Go down to Kew in Lilac Time".

GORDON LISTER.

***Indoor games
are more exciting
When they're played
by Osram lighting!***



Osram

THE WONDERFUL LAMP

A **S&C** product

The General Electric Co. Ltd.
Also manufacturers of the famous Osram fluorescent tubes

Tonic Sol-fa

ANY BRANCH needing a tonic? If so, why not try this prescription? Take a bunch of blokes of all ages, who say they can't sing or act and a cause worth supporting, stir vigorously, add a spice of outside talent, and then serve quickly and hot!

Sprowston Branch had been going along very nicely. In their short life of six years they had successfully completed two major jobs, firstly the launching of an Old People's Club, and secondly a scheme for relaying running commentaries of Norwich City football matches to all the Norwich Hospitals. Meetings were well attended, and there was a varied programme, but all the same, something seemed lacking. Could one detect a certain lack of 'leaping with joy' to any task for others?

Branch Effort

Then came a challenge! A sum of £800 had already been raised partly by Toc H, but mainly from other sources, to provide a permanent home for the Old People's Club, and a Toc H Builder, Mr. Lowry Cole, on hearing of this splendid effort, told the Branch that he would double anything they were able to raise for this fund between September and December. Individual members and friends organised their own special efforts, but the Branch itself decided to put on an all-male revue in the School Hall.

Rehearsals began, and chaos reigned. We imported a producer and chorus master, told them to be ruthless with us, and gradually the Show began to take shape. While sketches and choral items were being vigorously rehearsed, the back-room boys, publicity manager, stage manager, carpenter, etc., got to work, and the wardrobe mistress made a tour of her friends and collected a wonderful variety of costume material.

Other friends joined in—a conjuror, baritone, saxophonist, more chorus men, and eventually the whole locality became 'revue conscious'. As the great day approached, the producer

became more ruthless, and most of us more apprehensive. Would it be alright on the night? It was! The second night brought a wonderfully responsive crowd and an exuberant cast romped to their brief hour of glory. Even the corniest of sketches suddenly came to life and earned its round of applause. There were even some unexpected encores!



The cast of Sprowston Branch's all-male revue, "At the Court of Old King Cole"

The Results

What were the results? Not merely the 'doubled' £32 for the Building Fund, but also the sense of a corporate job well done and pleasure given to five hundred or so people, with many new friends made, and, we hope, some new members. Yes, we can certainly recommend the prescription! We had our doubts, but found that as we went forward the job created its own momentum. "Take a few blokes who cannot act or sing . . ."

Unfortunately Mr. Lowry Cole was not able to be present. You see, only a few months ago he had become blind.

ARTHUR SMITH.

Branch Briefs from all quarters

◆ The thrills of shipwreck and rescue, without any of the dangers, were experienced by members of SOLIHULL'S Blind Club when their launch broke down on the River Avon.

◆ Twenty-five East London boys had the time of their lives this summer at a camp organised by THANET District.

◆ "Fridge" is the code-word used by CAERPHILLY to denote their fortnightly job of showing films to patients at Energlyn Sanatorium, as all doors and windows are wide open, and a bitter wind blows over the Welsh Highlands.

◆ The final round in Beds. & Herts. Area Darts Championship is being played between HARPENDEN and SOUTH OXHEY at Stevenage Parish Room, at 7.30 p.m., Thursday, October 21.

◆ Three members of WILLENHALL (Staffs.) have become chairmen of local Urban District Councils since 1948.

◆ Old friends and members will be most welcome when SHIPLEY (Yorks.) celebrate their twenty-first Birthday with a Reunion Evening in the Schoolroom, Hall Royd Methodist Church, on Thursday, October 14.

◆ A few hundred tons of earth, the accumulation of many years, are being cleared by STOKE (Somerset) from their parish churchyard.

◆ Broadcast commentaries of football matches at Peel Park to patients in Victoria Hospital, undertaken by ACCRINGTON, commenced on September 8.

◆ A balloon race organised by CLACTON raised £43 towards an outing for blind people from the East End of London.

◆ A Drama Group has been started by EASTBOURNE and they are hoping to produce a play early in December.

◆ Members in the VALE OF CLWYD District transformed a derelict hall in Rhyl into a holiday camp and this summer entertained 160 Manchester children to a week at the seaside.

- ◆ A barrel-organ tour by KENTISH TOWN of Saturday shopping crowds raised £30 for their Old People's Holiday Fund.
- ◆ "Cuckoo in the Nest", a shop-window competition organised by MALTON (Yorks.) in co-operation with the local Chamber of Trade, led to 88 window displays.
- ◆ 160 children from the L.C.C. Home, West Croydon, had a day filled with fun and games, organised for them by CHERTSEY in partnership with SPRING PARK District.
- ◆ A flag day for WORKSOP's Darby and Joan Club realised £98 8s. 1d.
- ◆ Two old folk, ninety years of age, were included in the party of aged or blind people taken by KIDDERMINSTER on a combined coach and river outing to Worcester.
- ◆ A joint effort is being made by CHESTER-LE-STREET and STANLEY to provide a television set for the old people's ward at Drybum Hospital, Durham.
- ◆ Ten SANDWELL (Birmingham) members formed a roster to run a partially blind man's market stall, while he took his first holiday for years.



Moving Day: Members of Topsham Branch (Devon) in transit from their old meeting-room to new quarters

Open Hustings

Letters to The Editor

The Editor welcomes letters on all matters concerning Toc H. For reasons of space the right is reserved to shorten letters received, but every effort is made to print a representative selection.

Servicemen.

AS an eighteen year old National Serviceman starting my Basic Training at R.A.F. Hednesford three hundred miles from home, I was feeling pretty miserable. Corporals were shouting and chasing me around, everything was strange, while my only friend seemed to be the lad next to me, who was in the same position as I was.

I sent my address to an uncle, who is a Toc H man, and he forwarded it to Toc H Headquarters. From there it was sent to the secretary of the Branch nearest my camp, and Dennis Hooper promptly wrote me a welcoming letter. A meeting place was arranged, and from that moment I was accepted as one of the family, invited to their homes, and treated like an old friend. I, a recruit, actually spent a whole evening chatting and joking with a Squadron Leader from my own station! If this is a sample of Toc H fellowship, I should like to be part of it. Thank you, everyone, at Hednesford!

GEORGE F. GREENWOOD.

Possilpark, Glasgow.

The H Bomb.

THE LETTER from No. 6197 in the September JOURNAL interested me because it seems to imply a fundamental misconception of the real purpose of Toc H. The H Bomb is the end-product of bad human relationships at all levels of society—in effect it represents the sum total of all the sin arising from wrong relationships. Now Toc H as I understand it was never intended to address itself to end-products but to first causes. Ours is the simple business of teaching men the art of living together as God wants them to live, believing that only a world that has learnt that will cease to be a world living under the shadow of the H Bomb or any other menace that is just the end-product of bad relationships. We believe in treating the sickness, not the spots, however hideous the spots may appear to be.

For that reason I suggest that the Forward Committee was right in appreciating that the task of Toc H lies in the field of first causes, of helping to bring about right relationships between men

and women in the course of their daily lives and with special reference in these days to matters of racial, industrial and family relations.

I trust that Toc H will always stick to its own half of the battle, seeking to conquer hate by helping men and women to know one another. We must press always at that end, convinced that in the long run this is the only answer.

I am not afraid that discussion of the H Bomb in Toc H would disintegrate our Movement, any more than I am afraid of the possibilities that the H Bomb itself will disintegrate the lot of us. The important thing for the Christian is surely not *whether* we live, but *how* we live, for as long as life is given us. Toc H believes that the *how* we live will ultimately decide the *whether*.

I hope Toc H will not take up much time discussing what to do with the H Bomb. It isn't the really important thing. Would others agree?

JOHN CALLE.

London.

Forward Report.

WE have recently had the privilege of reading *Something to bite on*. Whilst applauding the urge to regenerate the Movement, it seems to us that some of the phraseology of the Report belittles the good solid work in little jobs of helpfulness which units up and down the country are doing or trying to do.

One of the outstanding virtues of Toc H has surely always been that it could find men willing and ready to tackle the nearest job to hand without 'ifs' and 'buts'. We feel there is a danger of increasing inertia in preventing spontaneous action and waiting until a specialist group has decided whether or not it conforms to high level planning.

We have in mind para. 28 and take exception to the deriding of jobs as palliatives.

GERRY CHAMBERS.

Hayes (Kent) Branch.

Old People.

I WAS INTERESTED to read in the July JOURNAL of the proposed pilot scheme for assisting old age pensioners to get employment and making employment for them.

I agree with Mr. C. J. Norman that there is a good deal that can be done and that Toc H should, because of its unique position and contacts, start a pilot scheme or schemes however small.

To show my feeling I have pleasure in enclosing cheque value £10 towards the cost of the preliminary work.

Being considerably over the pension age myself I am fortunate in having plenty of work to do, but if a branch of this scheme gets started in Wallasey I shall be glad to support it.

'VETERAN'.

Wallasey, Cheshire.

The Undefeated.

FOR THE SECOND YEAR

In succession I have had the privilege of helping a member of the Toc H Branch at the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney, to enjoy his fortnight's holiday in Brighton.

It has been an inspiration to know and hear this chap make light of his infirmities, and to learn how much Toc H means to the members in the R.H.H.I. If there's anyone with a little time to spare, try taking out or sitting with an invalid, and then thank God for your health and strength.

ALBERT WARREN.

Brighton, Sussex.

Young Blood.

IN BRANCH BRIEFS. June 1954. Bishop's Stortford wondered if they had the youngest member. Loddon in Norfolk cannot beat their claim but feel that worthy of mention is the fact that Victor Nobbs who is now a few months over sixteen has been a Probation Member since approximately 15½ years of age. His father, elder brother, and brother-in-law are members of the same Branch. In addition his mother and sister are members of the Toc H Women's Association Branch. R. DENIS LINES.

Loddon, Norfolk.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD are well behind the record, with their claim in the June JOURNAL.

After nine months as a probationer, my son Tony Maulby,

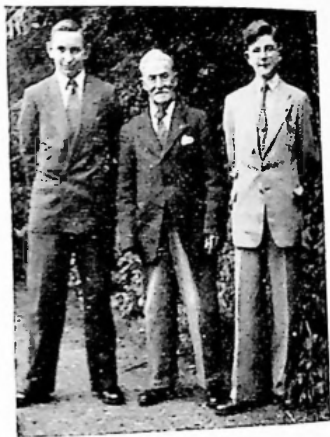
was initiated by me on his sixteenth birthday, May 3, this year.

FRANK MAULTBY.

Grimshy Branch.

THE PICTURE below shows our eldest and two youngest members. Their names and ages, from left to right, are:- John Smith, sixteen years, David Scott, ninety years and Geoff Thurston sixteen years. Are these ages a record for one Branch? We also have two other youngsters of sixteen years who attend regularly. AUBREY THURSTON,

Greenford, Middlesex.



Lunch Circle.

WILL members who know of any young men or women going up to the University of Bristol this October, please remind them to contact the University Toc H Lunch Circle, c/o The Union, Victoria Rooms, Bristol. Reading, Berks. COLIN HILL.

Christmas Cards

Here are miniature reproductions and details of this year's Cards



Card "A"

From the original drawing by Hew Purchas. Size 4" x 5½" complete with envelopes 4s. 0d. per doz., post free.

Card "B"

A camera study of the Porch of All Hallows with Christmas Crib. Linen finish. Size 4¼" x 5½" complete with envelopes 4s. 6d. per dozen, post free.

Supplies of both these cards will be available at the beginning of October in time for mailing overseas.



JOURNAL SUPPLEMENT

Additional copies of the December JOURNAL Supplement will be available for use as Christmas Cards on December 1. complete with envelopes. 4s. 0d. per dozen, postage free.

1955 DIARIES

Next year's Toc H Diary, indispensable to all members, is now ready. Price 3s. 6d., fitted pencil 4s. 0d., post free.

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Please tear out and use

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(Signed)